

In an effort to reduce conditions that contribute to rodent activity and other public health nuisances, the Cambridge City Council has approved an ordinance requiring the licensing of all dumpsters, and establishing clear property management and site cleanliness standards.

**This license is needed for:**

Any container, compacting unit, or roll-off that is used for the temporary storage, containment, or transport of refuse, debris, trash, garbage, recycling, organics or other like materials— **including temporary dumpsters used during construction.**

**This license is not needed for:**

Trash cans with volumes of 50 gallons or less, recycling receptacles of 96 gallons or less, or solid waste disposal trucks licensed by the City of Cambridge License Commission or used and operated by the City of Cambridge. It also excludes dumpsters used for one-day special events permitted by the City of Cambridge.



**Ordinance Requirements:  
(Chapter 8.25 of the Cambridge  
Municipal Code)**

**1 Application:**

The property owner or a designated Responsible Party must submit an application, which is available at [www.cambridgema.gov/dumpsters](http://www.cambridgema.gov/dumpsters) or by contacting Inspectional Services at (617) 349-6100.

**2 Dumpster Plan:**

A Dumpster Plan including the following elements must be submitted for review and approval.

*A. Location Details:*

A plot plan that includes the address and shows the location of the dumpster, associated fencing or screening, all catch basins, and all abutting properties.

*B. Owner or Responsible Party Information:*

1. The **owner** of the lot, and any **tenant operator(s)**.
2. The type of establishment(s) located on the lot.
3. The name of the party responsible for overseeing **cleaning and maintenance** of the lot.
4. A **weekly schedule** detailing the days/times the dumpster and any associated litter or leaks will be cleaned.
5. Any and all permits or licenses issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection relating to the generation, management, storage, and disposal of solid wastes and hazardous materials on the lot.
6. All permits or licenses issued by other City and government agencies.

**Keep Dumpster Areas Clean**



7. The **pest control company** servicing the establishment or dumpster.
8. A description of training and copy of written materials given to employees or residents about the **proper use** of a dumpster.

*C. Waste Hauler Information:*

1. A copy of the contract with the waste hauling company responsible for servicing the dumpster.
2. The date, time, and frequency of service by the waste hauling company including **proof of recycling and anticipated volume of refuse and recycling** based on the previous year's invoices, if applicable.
3. Any other information required by the Inspectional Services Department to ensure that the lot is maintained in a sanitary condition to maintain the public health, safety, and environment.

**Sanitation is the single most important factor for rodent control.**

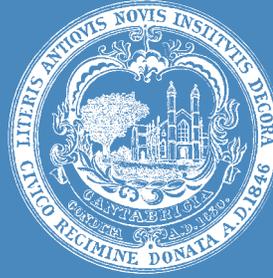
## ■ Dumpster Use—Best Practices

### *To keep rodents out:*

- Use dumpsters with tight-fitting lids. Keep lids and doors closed at all times to prevent trash from getting out and rodents from getting in.
- Place dumpsters on pavement or concrete, not soil, to prevent rats from burrowing underneath.
- Rodents can enter dumpsters through the 1 1/4" to 1 1/2" drain hole usually present in the dumpster rear wall (or side of a compactor). Ask your waste disposal company to put a leak proof drain plug in the dumpster.

### *To keep waste in:*

- Choose the right type and size of dumpster for your needs, so it won't overflow or leak.
- Clean under and around dumpsters as often as needed, particularly after collection.
- Minimize the amount of liquids placed in a dumpster to prevent spills. Ask your waste disposal company for a dumpster or compactor that will minimize spillage.
- Call your hauler when a dumpster needs cleaning inside. Do not wash or hose out a dumpster near a catch basin.
- Use a chain and lock on the dumpster lid if necessary to prevent scavenging and unauthorized use.



### Think Recycling

Separating recyclable materials from the trash can control trash costs by reducing dumpster size, weight, and collection frequency.

Businesses should set up recycling service with any hauler licensed to operate in the City, while residents can receive weekly curbside recycling service through the City.

City Ordinance requires that all commercial establishments that generate waste recycle the following materials if they comprise at least 5% of the waste by weight: asphalt, brick, cardboard; concrete, glass, metal and plastic containers; lead acid batteries, paper; scrap metal; waste oil; wood; and yard waste.

Visit our website for more information:  
**[cambridgema.gov/dumpsters](http://cambridgema.gov/dumpsters)**

# A Guide to Dumpster Licensing

**for Property Owners, Businesses,  
Tenants, Haulers & Contractors**

Visit [www.cambridgema.gov/dumpsters](http://www.cambridgema.gov/dumpsters) for more information on best practices.

Effective January 1, 2010



Printed on recycled paper.